

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 /034 W

----- 050591

R 141735Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3781

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR BEXP MR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DECIDES NOT TO PURCHASE EXECUTIVE JET

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 0909

1. GIRM DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION (DCA) TOLD EMBOFF UNOFFICIALLY MAY 13 THAT PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH HAS DECIDED AGAINST PURCHASING ANY EXECUTIVE JET. PRESIDENT DETERMINED EARLY THIS YEAR THAT HE WANTED EXECUTIVE JET AND INSTRUCTED ADVISORS TO PREPARE STUDY RECOMMENDING PARTICULAR MODEL. ADVISORS RECOMMENDED HAWKER-SIDDELEY, WHICH PRESIDENT THEN REJECTED AS TOO SMALL. ADVISORS THEN PROPOSED BOEING 737. AFTER LONG DELAY, OULD DADDAH MADE IT KNOWN THIS WEEK THAT HE WOULD NOT PURCHASE ANY EXECUTIVE JET.

2. DCA EXPLAINED TO EMBOFF THAT PRESIDENT APPARENTLY DECIDED AGAINST PURCHASE AFTER FOCUSING ON FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF INITIAL EXPENDITURE AND UPKEEP. GIGA MAY DECIDE AT LATER DATE, HOWEVER, TO OBTAIN EXECUTIVE JET. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, DCA SAID FOUR PAKISTANI CREW MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN IN MAURITANIA FOR ABOUT A YEAR, WAITING TO TAKE CHARGE OF EXECUTIVE JET, WILL PROBABLY BE SENT HOME.

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3. AT SOME POINT, DCA SAID GIRM PLANS TO INFORM

BOEING AND MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS (BOTH COMPANIES WERE ACTIVELY PURSUING SALE) OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION. IN MEANTIME, DEPARTMENT, IF QUERIED, MAY WISH TO PASS THIS INFORMATION TO COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES.

4. COMMENT: IT OCCURS TO US THAT ADDITIONAL FACTOR IN PRESIDENT'S THINKING MAY HAVE BEEN LIKELY ADVERSE REACTION IN CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF MAURITANIAN POPULATION TO SUCH AN EXPENSIVE PURCHASE FOR SOLE USE BY PRESIDENT AND HIS ENTOURAGE. DURING PERIOD WHEN OULD DADDAH IS TRYING TO CRACK DOWN ON LUXURIOUS LIVING BY SOME OF HIS CIVIL SERVANTS (NOUAKCHOTT 795), ANNOUNCEMENT AT PRESENT TIME THAT HE INTENDS TO PURCHASE LARGE EXECUTIVE JET WOULD BE PARTICULARLY ILL-TIMED. ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THIS DECISION WILL STAND DURING FORSEEABLE FUTURE, EMBASSY THINKS PRESIDENT HAS NOT GIVEN UP ON IDEA OF PURCHASING SOME KIND OF EXECUTIVE JET. HANDYSIDE

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